

New June 24th '57

Dear father & mother, "Knowing your journal was so behind hand they have you not been writing these many days?" I hear you exclaim! Behold my apology - I have been so busy with other things I had ~~not~~ done so mending for a fortnight or more; & though one leaves home in good order, a year's wear & tear makes some difference, especially if one's things are subjected to the tender mercies of foreign washer-women, & you may imagine the woful heap I displayed to Dr. May on leaving a cupboard door Saturday morn. I told him I must get through it before night! so I had a good days constant occupation; - & when we went over to the wards to Church, & passed the night there, went in yesterday to the Botanical gardens, & did not get home here until a lateish dinner, & so tried to write or do much of anything. And Tuesday morn. I am almost always too nervous to do much of anything until I get my letter, so I saw a little, & read a little, & make believe he industriously tells me the welcome & the trouble of the Post since at 12 1/2. Such a hard reap this week! I thank you, dear mother, for your charming note - I agree with you that father's rest in summer is quite imaginary. But since my experience with Dr. May has come to the conclusion that there are some minds whose anticipations of far outstrip the possibility of human accomplishment that life must needs be a continual labour & drive under high pressure - great consolation, is it not? But I think father has more chance of some time getting through than Dr. May. For his heart is not so much in his law as Dr. May's is in botany. And sometimes he may renounce it entirely - But as long as a third occupation remains, I expect the dear friends will be the first great object with my spouse. I am glad the Alderney seems so amiable, but I fancy she will need much coaxing - How I long to be at home again! Now the time is so near I grow very impatient, & shall be glad when we are going, that one need not stay thinking of it in quiet. But we shall leave a great deal sooner! A long letter too from Fizzie - I can scarcely believe the accounts of Fizzie! - I hope I shall see Mrs. Sam. Putnam - I want to know if they stop in London - I was very glad too to hear the good news of Aunt Sally's joy, & glad it was a boy - Letters too from Sue & Charlie, & from Mrs. Carey of New York - I hope some day may benefit Sue & all her family for they seem to need it - I was sorry to hear from her that father had dyspepsia, but Beverly must cure that. Did Fizzie go out fishing in the old Thacker's cove? - How exactly I can picture her & Am. on the headlands, safely shut from the view of the house, but for a moment ^{moment} ~~and~~ light were one making the love of the journals! I am glad Dr. Putnam had a nice voyage home & seems so well. But I am afraid the additional flack he reports on me is irresistible. I think of Fred Cunningham's advocacy, I remember reading the account, & with the remote possibility of its being him, looking for the names, etc. however were not given - Charlie's description of his room was capital! Perhaps for the necessities he surpassed us, but we sat & did him in easy-chairs, a portion of which I would sometimes like here, for the deficiency in that respect makes our little rocking-chair at home even more American.

anticipation - Mr. Ranger, the caretaker, had a daughter who visited the residence in Boston and I can now remember something about her - at least I do, & the sending some bunches of flowers - As the letters of this week say nothing of the "fair in Cambridge" I console myself that it is "up our way" is safe - Now I have run on, pushing out the poor penman's pen - But the want of some one to talk "home" to, makes it all appear so false. When Aunt Anna comes I have no doubt I shall be more quiet & spare you sundry discourses - But now for Journal in good earnest!

From the Place de la Bourse Mr. Ward & my self took our way to the Jardin des Plantes where we found Dr. Jay, & with him took a very hasty survey of the great collections of Botany, Mineralogy, zoology, &c. &c. - Admirable specimens admirably arranged, concerning which however I have not time to tell you even were they within the power of my comprehension - which not being very scientific they are not - I dined with Madame, as I wished to save my strength for the Theatre in the Ev. Madame was always pleased to have me dine with her, for "it is a sin" to dine alone & she never could eat anything. Aunt Anna came for us in the carriage, & Mr. Ward, Madame & I joined her to go to the last performance of Rachel in Thedre. Madame said it was not necessary to get tickets before hand, & so getting there we found an immensely long line of people waiting, & were obliged to take our places at the end - The Theatre Francaise is in the Palais Royal, & therefore the approach to the boxes was under the colonnade, which was our comfort; the building is thus, at least the corner where the box office is, & applicants for tickets were in a long column, running round the corner, two abreast, & the end - As you see in the inner dotted line, after awhile slowly advancing you got into a passage strongly fenced by wooden bars, where we could not get out until you reached the office, but which of course kept every one up & waiting, & though there were servants there, was no pushing, it was civility & patience, if a person fell out, he took his place instead of others pushing to take it he was rebuffed. Back again, I'm sure to be sure how good it was that Aunt Anna found it very endurable, but I confess it was a long process, our slow advance as the tickets were bought, the holders passed on at the other end, & our spirits sunk as to our chance of success, but there was no getting out, we must keep on - Just as the couple before us reached the box office the lid slid down, there were no more tickets! But a moment after it raised again, four tickets had been put in for sale again, but in a more expensive part of the house; the gentlemen hesitated, & Madame offered to take them, they agreed & passed on, & we were made happy, we hurried up stairs, & were ushered into a box just as the closing scene was about half through. There is nothing very striking in one accustomed to the English stage on seeing French acting, & that is the strain of ranting, over-acting, & the stage tone so almost invariable with us - There still is much, & in unexpected scenes the voice as natural as in a parlour, & yet everything is left to the actors themselves, there seems no help from scenery, startling scenes, & unexpected reverses. In Thedre the scene never changes from the beginning to the end, the actors are few, not an event takes place upon the stage until Thedre dies at the end. All is left for the words which

pass between the actors themselves - And yet it is so intensely interesting & exciting! Tone & manner & expression say everything, therefore, as actors & actresses I think French acting decidedly of a higher order than the English. I enjoyed it very much though I could not follow very well, & should like to be more familiar with the theatre & actors - The other piece which is a night play has also very good, ~~had~~ with the same peculiarities, a few scenes & events, & the natural tone & manner and one who followed with as much difficulty as I did could comprehend more readily a tragedy than a comedy. The actresses are dressed so beautifully too! as ladies of fashion & elegance - I fancy they serve sometimes as advertisements to the milliners - The theatre is very large & handsome. I was particularly impressed with the depth & size of the stage. But I think I have told you before how the boxes were arranged. Boxes in front, like a nation's box, as you cannot see at all - our next neighbours, & of course, were very not across - but very well held in - And Madame & I being behind were obliged to stand if we would have the whole stage & actors before us - Wednesday we had made arrangements to go to St. Cloud & St. Germain. Dr. Jay thought we had not time, but went round to take Aunt Anna & Mary to the station to join us - Mr. Ward & I set off to walk, & when called in our way I found we did not know it, & I had only a general idea - I knew there was a shorter cut, but feared missing it, & so took a long walk, & after with much weariness reaching the station in time, I found Dr. Jay thinking in quite a look, & who consoled us with the assurance he had gone round three sides of a square instead of a straight line. Aunt Anna was afraid the jolting, & when it was over, & at the station at St. Cloud were met by Louis Antoinette & a French friend of his - we walked to the Chateau which is a sort of a museum. Some of the windows looking out into the beautiful park & gardens, & others upon the fine valley of the Seine - St. Cloud though belonging to members of the royal family (it was here Henrietta of Orleans Charles's sister died so unfortunately) was never a royal residence until Louis XVI bought it & gave it to Marie Antoinette, who was very fond of it, & in it lived very much the garden & country - Napoleon's & Josephine were also very fond of St. Cloud, & lived here very much, & many of the most important events of Napoleon's career were originated or occurred here, & many events are told as having occurred in such & such rooms. Louis Philippe & his family were also here a great deal, & it is now the summer residence of the president of the Republic, & so has a more furnished look than many of the palaces which are uninhabited. And it is interesting from the fact of the beautiful furniture being preserved, from the time of Louis XIV & its joyous richness & folding, to the more chastened & classic magnificence of the Empire - On looking at the beautiful bed occupied by Marie Antoinette

I hoped
I then by inspection, that at least some Napoleon was not allowed that as his
chamber, that one must degrade it by associating it with him: Napoleon's
private study was still furnished as he left it - The arms of the cushions chain
represent Louis's breads & necks, the soft white beautifully contrasting with
the green silk covering - There was one magnificent dining gallery, the
ceiling superbly painted, beautiful pictures upon the walls, & the furniture
chiefly of fine inlaid cabinets, each differing from the other, of the time
of Louis XV - I never saw a palace before - I really coveted as a residence -
They are sometimes too large & nothing homelike, all state apartments, or
all for show, or something inconsistent - But St. Cloud is charming! neither
too large or too small, variety & not weariness & confusion, & looking so
charmingly into the beautiful grounds - I should like to live awhile at
St. Cloud! - Leaving the Court yard of the Chateau by the great gate, we
walked a little way down the street & then turned into other great iron
gates which admitted us into the Park - In almost all these French pal-
aces & castles the town comes close up to the entrance gate, & the front seems
almost like a city residence - It is only at the back that you are surround-
ed by the beautiful gardens, & look across them into the park - The Park as
we entered, lay along the river bank, & we took the broad walk on the edge
on our way to Levers. It was delightfully shaded by trees, & gave us glimpses
now & then up stately avenues or down wooded dells into the deeper recesses of
the park - We had a view of the great cascade & fountain, quite empty of water at
present, as it was under repair - But in French it rains & blows on certain stated days.
The road after awhile left the river, but we still kept this broad avenue of trees,
buttery groves in the park at the side, until we reached the gates which ad-
mitted us into the main chateau of Levers - We had walked a mile or more, & our
party began to think it time to lunch, so we stopped at a little cafe, & there
rest indulged in coffee & bread & butter - One could easily imagine seeing
bread on the table & see the great French loaves, such as the common people eat,
& such as you find in a common cafe like this - They are at least 3 ft. long, & about
as large as a man's leg, tapering towards the end - I think the French must love
cruet, for their little rolls are often drawn out in the same extraordinary way -
A loaf of one of these loaves was brought up, but I did not dare to take any coffee, for
the French coffee is so strong that I find I cannot bear even cafe au lait After our
refreshment we took our way to the porcelain manufactory, which being a public
work, is in a great building, the great court yard in front with a soldier to stand
guard at the gate, & sundry blue-coated individuals in cocked hats to direct
your steps right inside - We passed into a series of rooms where was arranged
porcelain already manufactured for sale Beautiful sets of tea set, sugar bowl,
cream jug, & cups & saucers, arranged in varnished covered cases lined with
velvet or satin, & each piece its little nest to fit into, sometimes the imitation of
porcelain - And each piece painted differently from the other, but the same series of
objects, running through the set - The set expensive & given, another landscape,

and me the children always go to the chapel the first flower of youth
and youth blossomed in their garden, the first like fruit - the said when
we were away last summer the gardeners saw the children & said, it was the first year
it was the first year & fruit in the chapel, the gardeners said that night
at it, & when their mother came home she would see them a year for the
chapel - they said the chapel had had a year, & when she came home the
round the year in the chapel - it was a great custom - I believe I told you
before the day of the children's month, that was the year married when
she was 15 & her eldest child was born when she was 16. Henri is 8, & gets a year
younger, Maurice 2, & Philine 2 months. He would have been married to
see Dr. Gray & Mrs. Ward playing see-saw on the children's balance, & great beam
fastened to a support in the centre by an iron wire, so that they could make
it turn round or see-saw - Mr. Ward had the advantage being the heavier,
though Dr. Gray almost threw himself full length at the end of the wire to
get the advantage of the lever - Madame L. & the rats sat on the grass & looked
on. After some investigations to try some new microscopes for Dr. Gray, we had
breakfast, which was in fact dinner, only the potage & the puddings were
omitted; but there were several courses of meat & then sweetmeats of fruit,
& red wine to drink with it. They said they & the children breakfasted
as usual, & then dined at 6 or half past 6. Some took both or coffee or chocolate
in the early morning, others took nothing until one o'clock breakfast - Dr.
Gray & I went in the day with J. & we all were very unwilling to
leave when it at length became time to go - On the grounds in a great cellar
where they say in the first French revolution some 100 people took refuge &
lived for some time. And they said in the revolution of '90 they closed
bread & wine there, so he supposed should they need a refuge here again -
Dr. Gray told you in J. & J. sent some Madame Filippini gave me such a pretty little
brace she had crocheted for me herself & in return turned the ring - and
I am sure I shall value it ever after. When I declare I am not in the least
in love with her. They sent us over to the station in their own carriage, a nice com-
fortable sort of Wagonette. But as it only held two Dr. Gray had a seat with the
coachman. And as usual - had an enormous bouquet of flowers - with which
I also crossed down home. - On getting back we found an invitation from Mrs.
Talbot for the evening, but I was too tired, & I persuaded Dr. Gray to go & represent the
evening - Friday morning Mr. de la Roche presented himself, & Mr. de la Roche is accompany us to
Bibliothèque Nationale - Aunt Anna & Mary had come to join us, & Mr. de la Roche
had invited Madame - It was a long walk, & Mary had taken very little break-
fast & no lunch, so with fatigue & heat & sick head ache came on, & she was
obliged to return before we had seen some of the most interesting things. The
she had worried her & Aunt Anna was a piece, & then returned to join us. ^{Dr. de la Roche}
introduced us to Mr. Chambliss, the son of the great Chambliss, who has some

of these which gives him at any rate the centre of the key. * The library,
which ranks as the fifth in the world (I think), was in the former palace
of Cardinal de Saligny, & the ceilings still retain the decorations of his
time - The first room for books we entered was filled with old French
romances, most ponderous weighty looking tomes, mostly in ancient
more inveterate - wood-covered - Then we passed into an museum room
filled with numerous objects, many very curious & ancient - The prayer-book
of St. Louis, the legends of figures of St. Louis, some with the beautiful paintings
so minute & finished, other figures found in carved ivory or silver & set
with jewels - One glass case was full of interesting autographs, modern & old -
But it is in endless discretion all - Mr. Thompson was very kind in telling
us all the most interesting ones - He showed us a set of cases in a long
gallery, beginning with the earliest specimens of printing & stereotyping
to the handsomest efforts of the modern art - and looked through a
curious & interesting cabinet of antiquaries, some beautiful - Cameos in stone &
shell, rings, figures, cups, vases &c. - Some of the cameos were formerly in the
the treasure of some chapel or church, & being supposed to represent in the
life of some saint, ornamented some shrine or holy vessel, but their pro-
fane origin & meaning having been ascertained, they were very properly
turned over to the Bibliothèque - We were obliged to hurry very much at
the end, & leave many interesting things unseen, because Mr. de la Roche had made
an appointment with Mr. de la Roche to come & see his gallery of pictures -
He had also sent us an album - I suppose the next week, should
we stay in Paris long enough - Which the permission of the Louvre
decided us to do - Mr. de la Roche's brother Dr. Gray knew when in Paris Dr. Gray
was - He had a very large & valuable herbarium & collections in other sciences,
a noble library, & was always most hospitable & kind to strangers, par-
ticularly scientific men, & used his best fortune for the aid & ad-
vancement of science & literature & art - The mother, without the last
for Botany of his brother, still keeps up the herbarium, & I told you I think
before that we had visited the fine library & herbarium in afternoon
under the escort of Mr. de la Roche the Librarian - Herbarium, library &
pictures gallery, & counting house, & even museum, as we concluded in one
great hotel in the Rue Montmartre - Mr. de la Roche is a thin featured
slender man, but I suppose one must call old men, but with a very
kindly expression, & kind friendly manner - He showed us from
the drawing room which was hung with some beautiful copies of some
of Raphael's madonnas, other great pictures, & some fine paintings of
modern French artists, through a conservatory now empty of flowers, into
the picture gallery, a long double room lighted from above - The great

mean of the concourse is on the one Dutch & German & more many & there
are some beautiful modern buildings - I renewed acquaintance with
some of my old friends of Amsterdam & the Hague - Those beautiful
cathedrals of St. Peter & St. Paul! - Barren Street visit is a return which
is nothing - I have. Delevest & their family were at their usual place
at Lady - But the crowd seemed to look so charming in its crowds &
gardens, that the court seemed necessary - I was glad to have
had so good an opportunity to see the interior of a fine French saloon &
the library with Mrs. Thorne, had a very pleasant dinner, meeting
untill dinner & Thorne, who had recovered from her head ache - On the 6th
we went to Franconi's who is close by them in the Champ. Elysees it is a
sort of circus, without but horses & riders, except one or two wonderful feats,
it was very amusing & very wonderful, both horses & riders - There were
quite a large party of us, for Mrs. & Miss Calvert came, & Mrs. Wainwright
& their children - I think Mrs. Calvert very interesting, & Mrs. Wainwright
always looks better, & she & her children are dressed with so much taste!
I never was in a public place so well entertained, & all other arrangements
for comfort & convenience were excellent; the circus was in the center
& the seats rose in an amphitheatre all around, & there was some of the
disagreeable smell of horses &c. so common in such places - I Ray of course
saw all such amusements, & went off to Mrs. Hobbs to talk; but joined
as afterwards at Mrs. Thorne's door & went as usual -

Amode - Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Anna, &c. came & we met at the R.R. in good
hour & it is beautiful, when we had a most delightful lunch - We got
there about 10 o'clock, & a guide offering to escort us, we placed ourselves
under his guidance for the Parks & Gardens first, until the Palace should
be shown - We entered the great court-yard, turning aside & passing the
end of the palace, found ourselves in one portion of the garden - The
palace stands high & the gardens gradually descend in terraces or by steps,
differing on each side & in front, all ornamented with fountains &
statues - The fountains of different stories, some spouting from urns, others
falling as cascades, some dolphins, some fruits, some giants, all the heathen
mythology, indeed of every imaginable variety of shape & ornament,
& avenues between cut & clipped - Only quite close & lying in front of the
Palace are they laid out as flower beds, but the greater portion is as above.
as it were, terraces which are cut broader & narrower & curved as it were, & where
quiet paths - The trees are trimmed so as to make the view then a new world,
& a grand shaded rock overhang - Stiff & formal to be sure, but arranged
well & mixed with the straight avenues & statues & monuments & most delightful

with cool & shady - in an in the animals the side, & standing in a
 fountain, & then in the garden seen were surrounded in the living green
 wall, you see 3 or 4 fountains dissimulated the volume radiating of, & some
 with much red marble through the same, & seen & the fountain
 situation more varied & picturesque. The last house, a white light, seems
 after leaving the beautiful Basin de Reims, is the mansion & first
 went into the grounds of the white mansion, which were laid out in
 Marie Antoinette's time in English style, - offering with its winding
 paths, its beautiful view sometimes singly sometimes in groups, the
 ever-changing points of view, a complete contrast to the formal garden
 grounds - the swans in the white stream were about here & came forth
 surely for my sight & delight, quite surprising me in their appearance.
 There was a beautiful group of rocks, so natural one could scarcely believe
 they were artificially arranged & so charmingly composed with ivy, the
 fine trees, the fawn enclosure, & the small lake in the middle
 lake or drop into amongst the other scene, all made us exclaim how
 much more beautiful now, than even then was it now, it must be
 when Marie Antoinette saw it herself. We saw the Swiss village,
 the mill where Louis XVIII was killed, the farm where Louis XVI & she were
 landlord & wife, & looking in at the window saw the great table they used
 to dine from, the farm house where Charles & played his part. The day
 where we climbed up to look in again, & could see the marble table, &
 marble shelves running round, the little frontiers running into great shelves
 on the four sides, & the dark sort of cellar where the milk was kept, all
 just as it was when poor Marie Antoinette played fairy maid & made
 butter with her own hands. - From there we went to the great library,
 the interior of which I described last winter, it had received some
 additions in fine tables of Florentine mosaic, bases of columns, &c. &c. & in the
 centre of the great gallery, the cradle of the little King of Rome &
 the Duc de Bordeaux standing in the chamber of the Duke de Paris,
 the furniture as well as curtains & magnificent bed prepared for
 Victoria, & her dressing room with one specimen left to show how splendid
 idly it was arranged. But on the first reading out of the resolution of
 the one of the French generals appropriated the furniture of this room
 to his private use, & in his apartments it still remains! From the
 mansion we went again through the grounds making our way to the
 Chapelle, so famous in the history of Versailles, which is a road across

covered with turf. leading from the ardens & mountains just in front of
the palace down to the great sheet of water at the end, raised with
trees on each side & decorated with statues - The gardens above this in
front of the palace became most superb fountains & were crossed decorated
with bronze statues, the trees around are clipped into the form of bushes
& cones, & on one side are beds which our guide told us were now for
many years planted as when the grounds were first laid out, the beds
bordered by box being in the shape of fleurs de lis wandering through.
The grounds we saw were numerous terminations in some gates, & on going to
them to look through they said it was Marie Antoinette's concert room -
a circle in the floor & a colonnade of handsome pillars surrounding
it where seats were placed for the audience, when in the days the Queen
gave orders for a concert those that sat the performers were in the centre, a
few steps below - Through a similar vision later in a different direction we saw
the Queen's ball room, the side summited in a high terrace where was
arranged a beautiful cascade falling over rocks which was illuminated
by lights behind the water - The great sheet of water was called le Miroir
now half ~~the~~ filled up in the time of Louis XVIII, & bordered by trees as was in
England - Every bouquet indeed, & every plant in the centre, resulting from
sprinkled over it, produced succulents & plants & flowers the low plants as
caused as to form their colour - He were covered with objects by the par-
ticular Thomas, our guide who possessed himself an old servant of nobility,
said he born with him from Elba, & his wife was his nurse. To the little king
of Rome - He told us many interesting things, said that was a kind master
but especially his recreation & exercise in walking, & other sports, &c. &c. By the
time we reached the palace we were well tired, & I am sure I could have
done days in those walks round it! The palace we saw, perhaps more of than
in the winter, & the private rooms the most interesting parts
to me, our guide gave us some additional facts - But we were too late to
get into the winter stables, where are the portraits of distinguished persons
& long a course of history - But we inquired our kind English friends all
were most heartily tired, & the two gentlemen showed it most -

I must repeat my caution not to address letters to us after the 1st
week in August, though perhaps you can write to us at Halifax if then
should be any need - We are about engaging our passage for Aug. 23rd -
next week we go in a ship to the meeting of the B. & O. Socy. - Aunt Anna
comes when we get back - At the end of August we leave for Millarney - an Irish town -
I hope the promised letter may come to hand - It should have come from Paris in the
Humboldt - With warmest love to all the dear ones, one & all most affectionately -